

# INSIGHTS

Volume 5: Issue 3 April 2015

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

## Economic Indicators

### April 2015 - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	SC
Labor Force	157,072,000	2,256,118
Employed	148,523,000	2,104,590
Unemployed	8,549,000	151,528
Unemployed Rate	5.4%	6.7%

### Average Hours & Earnings

	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$1,024.90	\$793.30
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.8	42.4
Avg. Hourly Wage	\$ 25.12	\$ 18.71

### Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Charleston MSA	0.88%	3.47%
Columbia MSA	0.13%	1.93%
Florence MSA	0.12%	1.07%
Sumter MSA	-0.26%	0.00%

### Employment to Population Ratio (SA)

	2015	2014
U.S. Population Ratio	59.3%	58.9%
S.C. Population Ratio	55.4%	54.5%

### Labor Force Participation Rate (SA)

	Apr	Mar	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	62.8%	62.7%	0.1%
S.C. Participation Rate	59.4%	59.2%	0.2%

### United States Consumer Price Index

12-Month CPI	-0.2%
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## HIGHLIGHTS

- New labor force record set
- Over 8,100 increase in employment over the month
- Unemployment rates fall in 30 counties in April

View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Employment  
8,106



Unemployment  
1,769



Unemployment  
Rate  
0.0%



## Employment Estimate Exceeds 2.1 Million People – Unemployment Rate Remains Flat

April's seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate remained unchanged at 6.7 percent in April. The estimated number of employed people set a new record of 2,104,590 people, increasing 8,106 over the month. Additionally, the labor force (those employed and those unemployed actively seeking work) set a new record of 2,256,118 people.

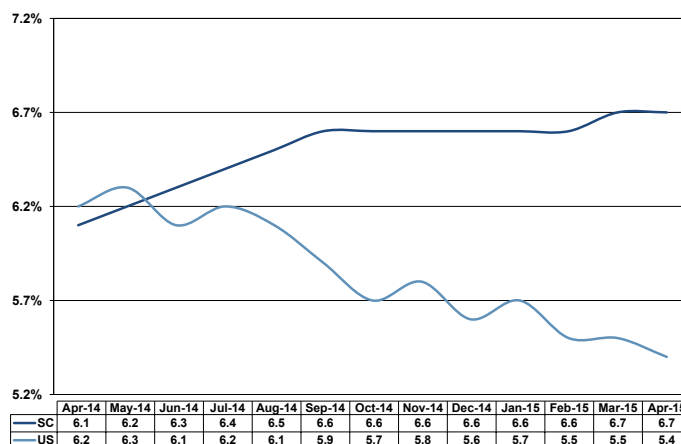
During April the estimated number of unemployed increased by nearly 1,770 people. The number of unemployed was assessed at about 151,530 people.

Over the year, approximately 62,050 people found work. The number of unemployed people increased by nearly 18,925, as the unemployment rate increased 0.6 percentage point. Approximately 80,975 people entered the labor force over the year.

Nationally, over the month, the April unemployment rate declined modestly to 5.4 percent.

Employment levels continue to grow at a robust pace, reflecting healthy growth in the state's economy. Moreover, as graduation season approaches, the state's labor force is expected to increase further with new graduates looking for and finding employment opportunities across the Palmetto State.

Unemployment Rates in South Carolina and The United States  
April 2014 – April 2015 Seasonally Adjusted



*Insights* is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2014 benchmark. To subscribe to *Insights*, please email [bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov](mailto:bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov) or to provide feedback please click on the [BID Customer Feedback Form](#).

## State Unemployment Rates

District Of Columbia	7.5
Nevada	7.1
West Virginia	7.0
Alaska	6.7
<u>South Carolina</u>	<u>6.7</u>
Louisiana	6.6
Mississippi	6.6
New Jersey	6.5
California	6.3
Connecticut	6.3
Georgia	6.3
New Mexico	6.2
Rhode Island	6.1
Arizona	6.0
Illinois	6.0
Tennessee	6.0
Alabama	5.8
Arkansas	5.7
Missouri	5.7
New York	5.7
Florida	5.6
North Carolina	5.5
Washington	5.5
Indiana	5.4
Michigan	5.4
<u>United States</u>	<u>5.4</u>
Maryland	5.3
Pennsylvania	5.3
Ohio	5.2
Oregon	5.2
Kentucky	5.0
Virginia	4.8
Maine	4.7
Massachusetts	4.7
Delaware	4.5
Wisconsin	4.4
Kansas	4.3
Colorado	4.2
Texas	4.2
Hawaii	4.1
Oklahoma	4.1
Wyoming	4.1
Montana	4.0
Idaho	3.8
Iowa	3.8
New Hampshire	3.8
Minnesota	3.7
South Dakota	3.6
Vermont	3.6
Utah	3.4
North Dakota	3.1
Nebraska	2.5

## South Carolina Ranked 4th Highest of 51 in April

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 23 states and the District of Columbia experienced decreases in their unemployment rates, 11 states had increases, and 16 states remained unchanged. In April, South Carolina's ranking tied for fourth highest out of 51.

The most significant over-the-month acceleration in employment occurred in Nevada at 1.0 percent and Alaska at 0.9 percent. The largest reduction in employment was in New Hampshire and Wyoming at -0.3 percent each.

Over the year, nonfarm employment increased in 49 states and the District of Columbia, and decreased in West Virginia (-0.7 percent). The largest over-the-year uptrend occurred in Utah at 4.0 percent, followed by Florida and Washington at 3.6 percent each.

## April Unemployment Rate by County

Not seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates across the state were mixed over the month. Unemployment rates in 30 counties declined; 10 counties remained flat; and six counties experienced increases. Rates ranged from 11.6 percent in Allendale County to 5.0 percent in Lexington and Charleston counties.

Over the year, Greenville County has marked the greatest increase in people working with an estimated 6,650 people finding work. Charleston (5,340), York (3,677), and Spartanburg (3,477) counties have seen significant growth as well. All counties across the state, with the exception of Sumter County, have noted growth in people working over the year.

Looking forward in the near term, coastal counties will benefit as the tourist season ramps up towards a peak in July. Counties with a noteworthy presence in the education industry will experience some employment declines as schools ramp down towards summer break.

Highest County Unemployment Rate		Lowest County Unemployment Rate	
Allendale	11.6%	Charleston	5.0%
Orangeburg	10.0%	Lexington	5.0%
Marion	9.9%	Greenville	5.2%
Marlboro	9.9%	Jasper	5.3%
Bamberg	9.8%	Anderson	5.5%



## Employment Changes by County February 2015 through April 2015

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar '15 - Apr '15	Feb '15 - Mar '15
Abbeville	10,079	9,914	9,792	165	122
Aiken	70,696	69,535	68,957	1,161	578
Allendale	2,621	2,604	2,555	17	49
Anderson	83,401	82,290	81,841	1,111	449
Bamberg	5,092	5,040	4,959	52	81
Barnwell	8,236	8,127	8,027	109	100
Beaufort	66,050	65,785	64,486	265	1,299
Berkeley	86,941	85,616	85,282	1,325	334
Calhoun	6,473	6,463	6,408	10	55
Charleston	185,759	182,711	181,644	3,048	1,067
Cherokee	22,429	22,149	21,934	280	215
Chester	12,668	12,592	12,501	76	91
Chesterfield	20,362	20,150	19,887	212	263
Clarendon	12,197	12,087	11,920	110	167
Colleton	16,137	15,881	15,663	256	218
Darlington	27,451	27,558	27,557	-107	1
Dillon	11,642	11,559	11,396	83	163
Dorchester	67,379	66,351	66,066	1,028	285
Edgefield	10,157	10,007	9,890	150	117
Fairfield	9,311	9,295	9,233	16	62
Florence	60,093	60,145	60,151	-52	-6
Georgetown	24,007	23,569	23,143	438	426
Greenville	226,764	223,708	222,548	3,056	1,160
Greenwood	30,406	29,966	29,614	440	352
Hampton	7,866	7,828	7,682	38	146
Horry	127,336	122,443	119,063	4,893	3,380
Jasper	10,940	10,851	10,584	89	267
Kershaw	26,615	26,565	26,389	50	176
Lancaster	32,868	32,630	32,379	238	251
Laurens	28,588	28,211	28,023	377	188
Lee	5,955	5,936	5,882	19	54
Lexington	133,987	133,614	132,791	373	823
McCormick	3,394	3,334	3,290	60	44
Marion	11,784	11,617	11,454	167	163
Marlboro	9,164	9,037	8,916	127	121
Newberry	17,743	17,632	17,386	111	246
Oconee	33,255	32,798	32,403	457	395
Orangeburg	34,834	34,398	33,916	436	482
Pickens	52,995	52,249	51,945	746	304
Richland	183,672	183,144	182,338	528	806
Saluda	8,185	8,225	8,110	-40	115
Spartanburg	129,637	129,059	128,675	578	384
Sumter	41,057	41,003	41,050	54	-47
Union	10,789	10,736	10,698	53	38
Williamsburg	12,019	11,905	11,767	114	138
York	116,547	115,597	114,753	950	844

## South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for April - Seasonally Adjusted

In April 2015, seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll employment increased from March by 11,500 over the month to reach the record level of 1,998,500. The uptick in employment was primarily due to gains in Professional and Business Service, which posted the largest gain in employment at 4,500.

During April, along with increases in Professional and Business Services, there was growth in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,800) and Education and Health Services (+2,100). Additional gains were seen in Construction (+1,000); Leisure and Hospitality (+800); Government (+500); and Other Services (+300). Industries reporting declines were Manufacturing (-300) and Information (-100). Financial Activities remained stable.

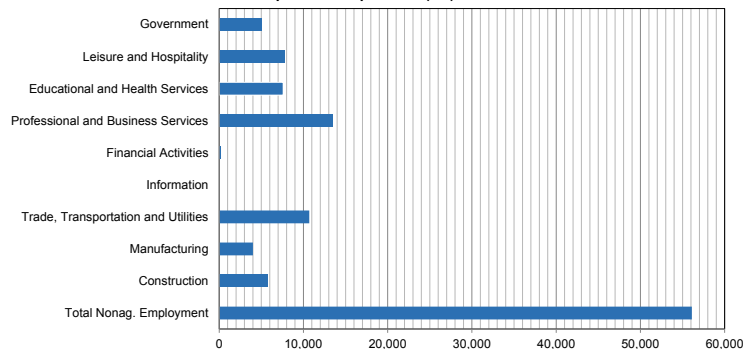
Over-the-year growth in nonfarm employment was at 56,100 with Professional and Business Services (+13,500) and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+10,700) reporting the largest gains. Essentially every industrial sector saw growth since last year: Leisure and Hospitality (+7,800); Education and Health Services (+7,600); Construction (+5,800); Government (+5,000); Manufacturing (+4,000); and Other Services (+1,500). Modest increases were seen in Financial Activities (+200), while Information remained stagnant.

Three of the four Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll employment saw over-the-month increases. The largest increase was in Charleston with a gain of (+2,900), followed by increases in Columbia (+500) and Florence (+100). Sumter MSA experienced a loss of (-100).

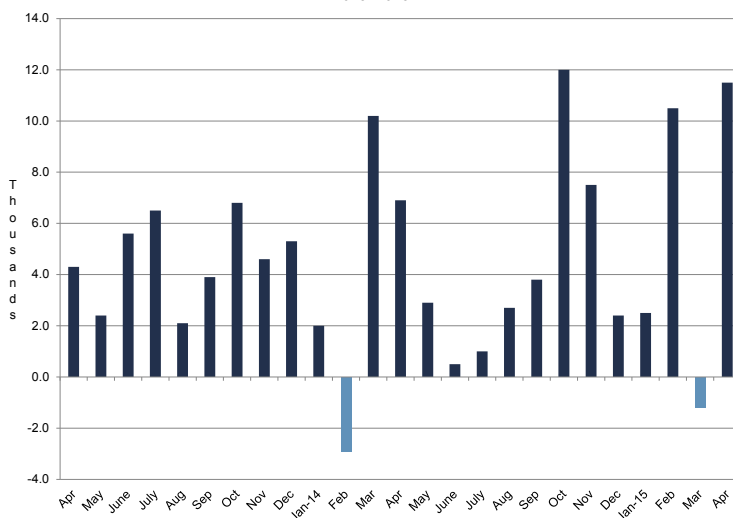
Nearly every MSA saw seasonally adjusted payroll employment growth compared to a year ago. The largest increase was in Charleston (+11,100), followed by increases in Columbia (+7,200) and Florence (+900). Sumter MSA remained stable.

As a result of the new MSAs redefinition, there are only four South Carolina MSAs publishable under nonfarm, seasonally adjusted employment. MSAs are defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and are the result of the latest published standards from Census Bureau data. (The standards for defining the areas are reviewed and revised once every 10 years prior to each decennial census). Therefore, with the release of the 2014 benchmark, Current Employment Statistics will incorporate the updates to area definitions based

South Carolina Job Changes by Industry  
April 2014 - April 2015 (SA)



SC Total Nonfarm Jobs  
2013 -2015



on the new standards from the 2010 Census. As a result of the new standards, breaks have been created in the time series for these areas. Due to the breaks in the time series, BLS will be unable to publish all of the redefined areas on a seasonally adjusted basis. The South Carolina areas based on the 2010 standards and Census Bureau data were defined in February 2013.

To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to

[www.SCWorkforceInfo.com](http://www.SCWorkforceInfo.com)

(Employment and Wage Data section)

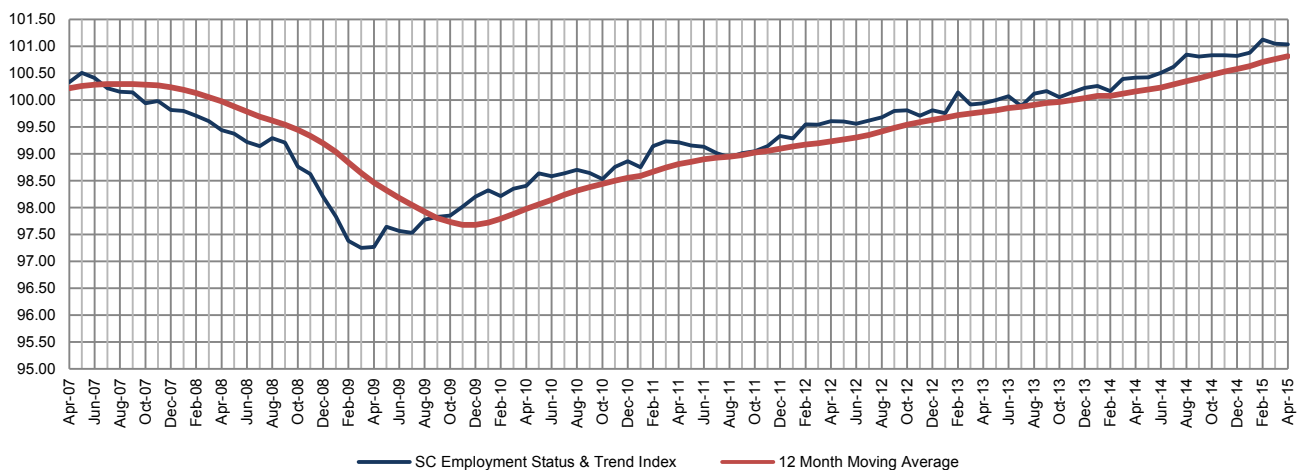
## South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Barely Changed

In addition to the 0.08 percent slide in March, the South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) experienced a tiny drop of 0.01 percent to end April at 101.04. Contributing to the decline of SCESTI, was a more than 17 percent rise of the SC Unemployment Initial Claims, coupled with a 6.11 percent fall of the Conference Board's US Consumer Confidence Index. The Conference Board's SC Help Wanted Online Ads were also lower, losing 2.1 percent for April. On the positive side, the state's Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours worked and the Conference Board's US Consumer Confidence Index bucked the trend, gaining 1.68 and 0.84 percent, respectively.

Compared with 12 months ago, SCESTI was 0.61 percent higher in April 2015. All the index components managed improvements. The Conference Board's US Consumer Confidence Index was 16.52 percent higher than April 2014. Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims decreased 8.68 percent and the Conference Board's US Employment Trend Index rose 5.77 percent. The Conference Board's SC Help Wanted Online Ads advanced 5.48 percent, and the Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours was 4.18 percent higher than April 2014.

Apart from the negligible slide of the month, SCESTI remains extremely close to its all-time high. In fact, April marks the 44th consecutive month (since August 2011) that SCESTI has been moving above its 12-month moving average. This is a clear sign that the employment situation for South Carolina will continue to improve throughout the summer months.

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index





## Vroom! Vroom! Motor Vehicle Manufacturing in SC

With Volvo's recent announcement of South Carolina as their lone U.S.-based manufacturing facility, you may be wondering what impact vehicle manufacturing has in the Palmetto State.

### Top Vehicle Manufacturing Industries in SC, Third Quarter 2014

Currently, almost 20,000 South Carolinians are employed in some type of vehicle manufacturing. This table shows that Other Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturing employs the most on average. (This category includes parts like air bags, exhaust system, radiators, and wheels.) The highest paying industry within vehicle manufacturing is Travel Trailer and Camper Manufacturing with an average hourly wage of \$33.43.

	Avg. Qtrly. Emp.	Avg. Hourly Wage
Other Motor Vehicle Parts Mfg.	4,374	\$25.03
Motor Vehicle Brake System Mfg.	2,997	\$29.75
Motor Vehicle Transmission and Power Train Parts Mfg.	2,689	\$22.65
Motor Vehicle Gasoline Engine and Engine Parts Mfg.	2,550	\$27.95
Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	1,614	\$29.15
Motor Vehicle Seating and Interior Trim Mfg.	1,345	\$23.88
Travel Trailer and Camper Mfg.	1,223	\$33.43
Motor Vehicle Electrical and Electronic Equipment Mfg.	1,118	\$22.80
Motor Vehicle Steering and Suspension Components Mfg.	836	\$19.65
Heavy Duty Truck Mfg.	454	\$28.25
Motor Vehicle Body Mfg.	421	\$15.80
Truck Trailer Mfg.	124	\$19.03

Source: SCDEW, BID, QCEW

### Top 10 Job Advertisements in the Vehicle Manufacturing Industry in SC

1/28/15 to 5/27/15

Industrial Engineers
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
Mechanical Engineers
Machinists
Purchasing Agents, Except Wholesale, Retail, and Farm Products
Supply Chain Managers
Manufacturing Engineers
Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic
Computer Systems Analysts

Source: The Conference Board's Help Wanted Online© data series

Using online job advertisements shows us that businesses in SC seem to need higher level job candidates such as Industrial, Mechanical, Manufacturing Engineers, and Supervisors of Production (i.e. manufacturing) Workers.

This table shows that jobseekers registered in the SC Works Online System want basic manufacturing jobs: Assemblers and Fabricators, Production Workers, Production Helpers, General Maintenance Workers, and Team Assemblers. Jobs as Welders and Machinists are also desired.

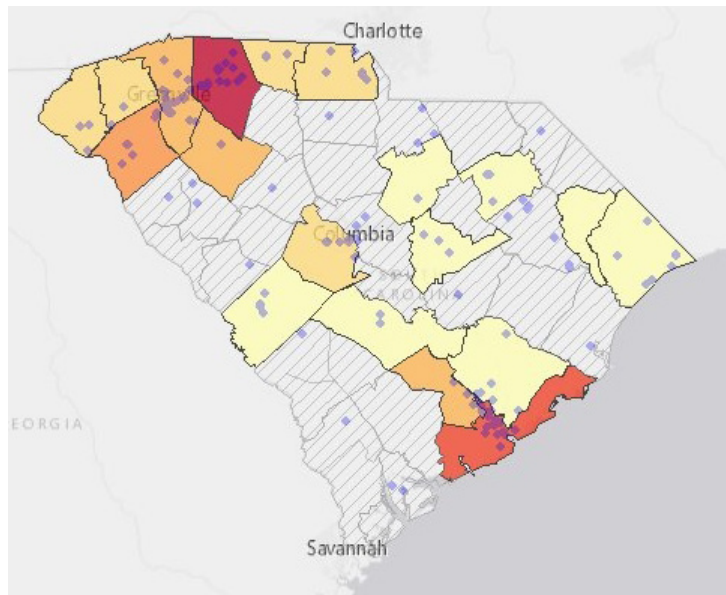
### Top 10 Desired Vehicle Manufacturing-Related Occupations of Jobseekers in SC

1/28/15 to 5/27/15

Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other
Production Workers, All Other
Helpers--Production Workers
Manufacturing Production Technicians
Welders, Cutters, and Welder Fitters
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers
Machinists
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers
Team Assemblers

Source: SC Works

Both the map and the table below indicate that much vehicle manufacturing employment is currently concentrated and has numerous online job advertisements in the Upstate (especially Anderson, Greenville, and Oconee counties) and the Lowcountry (Charleston and Dorchester counties).



#### Top 10 Counties (Job Ads) in the Vehicle Manufacturing Industry in SC

1/28/15 to 5/27/15

Greenville County
Oconee County
Spartanburg County
Charleston County
Anderson County
York County
Richland County
Kershaw County
Orangeburg County
Georgetown County

Source: The Conference Board's Help Wanted Online© data series

Employers who place online job advertisements sometimes include certifications and soft skills that the job requires or the employer would prefer a candidate have. As you can see in the table below, employers in vehicle manufacturing would be pleased to see a candidate with some kind of a quality management or process improvement certification. Computer software such as Microsoft Office and SAP are now considered, in some industries, a soft skill with the expectation that everyone entering that industry have that specific software knowledge.

#### Top 10 Certifications and Soft Skills Included in Auto Manufacturing Job Ads in SC

1/28/15 to 5/27/15

##### CERTIFICATIONS

ISO TS16949 (quality management)
Occupational Safety & Health Administration Certification
QS 9000 Standard (quality management for auto mfg.)
Certified Public Accountant
Senior Professional in Human Resources
Professional in Human Resources
Certified Management Accountant
Driver's License
Society for Human Resource Management certification
Six Sigma Green Belt (process improvement)

##### SOFT SKILLS

Oral and written communication skills
Microsoft Office
Problem solving
Creativity
Microsoft PowerPoint
Self-starting / Self-motivated
SAP (Systems, Applications & Products software)
Detail oriented
Project Management
Team-oriented, teamwork

Source: The Conference Board's Help Wanted Online© data series

The SC Automotive Council reports that the automotive manufacturing industry alone (not counting heavy duty trucks or other vehicle production) brings \$27.1 billion into the state annually with its 300+ auto manufacturing companies. The Council estimates that South Carolina has the third largest automotive manufacturing strength in the country. With Volvo entering the Palmetto State's motor vehicle manufacturing world, that strength should grow in the next decade.